UNITED
NATIONS

EP

Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/HLC/2/1/Add.1/Rev.1
10 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS
Second meeting
Nairobi, 2-4 March 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

REVISED ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1. The second meeting of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials will be opened by Mr. Philippe Roch (Switzerland), Acting Chairperson of the Committee, at 2 p.m. on Monday, 2 March 1998.

2. At its first meeting, held in New York on 28 June 1997, the High-level Committee elected its Bureau comprising:

Chairperson:	Mr. Chen Chimutengwende (Zimbabwe - African Group)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Wang Zhijia (China - Asian Group)
	Mr. Pavel Suian (Romania - Eastern European Group)
	Mr. Philippe Roch (Switzerland - Western European and Others Group)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray (Argentina - Latin American and the Caribbean Group)

3. At the meeting of the Bureau, held in Geneva on 1 August 1997, the Chairperson of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, Mr. Chen Chimutengwende (Zimbabwe), announced that he would no longer be able to continue to chair the Committee but that his successor would continue to represent the African Group on the Bureau.

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* UNEP/HLC/2/1 and Corr.1.

4. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, at its meeting held in Kyoto on 9 December 1997, designated Mr. Philippe Roch (Switzerland), one of its Vice-Chairpersons, to be Acting Chairperson of the Committee. The minutes of the Kyoto meeting of the Bureau were distributed to Governments on 9 January 1998. The Committee may wish to confirm its officers in accordance with paragraph 4 of Governing Council decision 19/32, on governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the meeting

5. The Committee will have before it, for its consideration, the provisional agenda (UNEP/HLC/2/1 and Corr.1) and annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/HLC/2/1/Add.1/Rev.1). At its meeting on 1 August 1997, the Bureau selected priorities for the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials in the light of the views expressed at the Committee's first meeting, held in New York on 28 June 1997. Those priorities are reflected in the provisional agenda.

6. The Committee may also wish to give consideration to the organization of the session, with a view to ensuring the most efficient management of the time available.

Item 3. Freshwater

7. At the Committee's first meeting, several members expressed strong support for the inclusion of the issue of freshwater in its programme of work. At its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations General Assembly also highlighted the importance of the issue of freshwater and called for a dialogue under the auspices of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In recognition of this, the Bureau of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials selected freshwater as a priority issue for the Committee to address.

8. Under this item, the Committee has before it, for its consideration, the report of the Executive Director on the UNEP freshwater strategy (UNEP/HLC/2/4 and Corr.1).

Item 4: UNEP reform in the context of United Nations reform

9. At the first meeting of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, several members expressed the view that the reform of UNEP should be a priority issue before the Committee. It will also be recalled that, at its nineteenth session, the Governing Council of UNEP took a number of important decisions on the subject, including those pertaining to the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration and the governance of UNEP.

10. In addition, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Reviewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950) addressed a number of issues relating to the reform of UNEP, as well as providing for a process to address the fundamental reform of UNEP, culminating in a report on the matter to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

11. The Bureau selected the issue of the reform of UNEP as a priority for the Committee in order to ensure that the Committee would be in a position to provide its input at an early stage in the process.

12. The Committee has before it the report of the Executive Director on UNEP reform in the context of United Nations reform (UNEP/HLC/2/2 and Corr.1), as well as an information note on the implications for UNEP of the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (UNEP/HLC/2/INF/3 and Corr.1).

13. Also before the Committee is a note by the Acting Chairperson transmitting elements for a draft decision of the Governing Council of UNEP concerning the role of UNEP within the context of reform of the United Nations (UNEP/HLC/2/INF/7). This document, which was produced by the Bureau at its meeting in Kyoto, is meant to facilitate and stimulate a political discussion at this meeting. It will be for the Committee to decide on the appropriateness and the content of such a draft decision.

Item 5: Financing of UNEP

14. By its decision 19/32, on the governance of UNEP, the Governing Council identified, among the elements of the mandate of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, support to the Executive Director in mobilizing adequate and predictable financial resources. In addition, the Nairobi Declaration, adopted by the Council at its nineteenth session, also highlighted the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources. At the Committee's first meeting, several members mentioned the high importance they attached to the question of financing. The issue was also highlighted by the General Assembly at its special session.

15. In the light of the foregoing, the Bureau placed the question of the financing of UNEP on the agenda of the second meeting of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials. The Committee will have before it the report of the Executive Director on the issue (UNEP/HLC/2/3 and Corr.1), as well as an information document reviewing background issues (UNEP/HLC/2/INF/4 and Corr.1). The draft decision annexed to document UNEP/HLC/2/INF/7 also contains a segment on the financing of UNEP.

Item 6: Progress report on Mercure

16. At its first meeting, the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials requested the Executive Director to prepare a progress report on the status of implementation of the Mercure satellite communications system, for its next meeting. The progress report is before the Committee as information document UNEP/HLC/2/INF/1 and Corr.1.

Item 7: Rules of procedure of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials

17. The Governing Council, in its decision 19/32, provided that "the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, including rule 63, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials until it adopts its own rules of procedure".

18. The Bureau requested the preparation of an information note for the Committee. This note, contained in document UNEP/HLC/2/INF/2 and Corr.1, concludes that the Committee can function under the rules of procedure of the Governing Council as a transitional measure, while raising a number of issues that may be dealt with by the Committee at a subsequent meeting in the light of experience gained.

Item 8: Other matters

19. Under this item, the Committee may wish to confirm its decision, adopted at its first meeting, to entrust the finalization of the report to the Rapporteur, in consultation with the secretariat, and for the report to be distributed to all members of UNEP in a timely manner.

20. Members of the Committee may bring any other matter to the attention of the Committee.

Item 9: Closure of the meeting

21. The meeting is expected to conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 March 1998.